



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION ICY HOT
INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS
FOR METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a large-scale conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Today's sentencing, Graves said, is a result of Operation Icy Hot, which has resulted in 37 convictions.

Herbert L. Conroy, Jr., 30, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

On October 25, 2005, **Conroy** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to distribute at least 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2002, and July 12, 2004.

Conroy is among 37 co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to charges contained in an Aug. 12, 2004, federal indictment. Among those co-defendants are 10 who are Mexican nationals living in Kansas City and Independence, 12 Kansas City residents, eight Independence residents, four Grandview, Mo., residents, one Raytown, Mo., resident, one Warrensburg, Mo., resident and one El Paso, Texas, resident.

* **Christopher M. Graham**, 29, of Kansas City, was sentenced on Feb. 1, 2006, to 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole, which the court ordered to run concurrently with the remainder of the term being served for an unrelated federal offense.

* **Ronald P. Murray**, 48, of Kansas City, was sentenced on Jan. 4, 2006, to five years in federal prison without parole.

* **Michael B. Pedrino**, 28, of Independence, was sentenced on Jan. 6, 2006, to seven years in federal prison without parole.

* **Lucas D. Wilson**, 24, of Independence, was sentenced on Jan. 6, 2006, to seven years and one month in federal prison without parole.

* **Jose D. Andujo-Hernandez**, 34, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, was sentenced on Aug. 22, 2005, to four years and three months in federal prison without parole.

* **James M. Winkler**, 31, of Independence, was sentenced on Aug. 16, 2005, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

* **Manuel S. Funes-Vargas**, 39, and **Enrique Cazarez, Jr.**, 26, both Mexican nationals living in Kansas City, pleaded guilty on Oct. 27, 2005, to their roles in the conspiracy. **Funes-Vargas** and **Cazarez** also pleaded guilty to a forfeiture count of the indictment, which requires them to forfeit their interest in any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy. The forfeiture includes approximately \$12,850 seized during the search of an Independence, Mo., residence.

Other Mexican nationals who pleaded guilty and await sentencing include **Alberto Balderarama-Sanchez**, 34, **Edgar Sanchez**, age unknown, **Humberto Reves**, 36, **Michael Wayne Mosher**, 25, **Guillermo Rivera-Corral**, 58, and **Armando Hernandez**, 38, who all are living in Kansas City, and **Esmeralda I. Mendoza-Mendoza**, 31, who resides in Independence.

Other Kansas City residents who pleaded guilty and await sentencing include **Ramon Leopoldo Morales**, 46, **Rebecca Alexander**, 36, **Lewis G. Kilgore, Jr.**, 29, **Samuel R. Contraras**, 26, **David J. Perez**, 35, **Peyton S. Leach**, 28, **Thomas E. Wasmere, IV**, 36, **John B. Wolf**, 35, **Michael D. Ryan**, 32, and **Jesus M. Hernandez-Delgado**, 27.

Other Independence residents who pleaded guilty and await sentencing include **Cledis R. Roberts, Jr.**, 28, **Kelly E. Bunce**, 26, **Kimberly D. Vickers**, 30, **Leonira A. Rodriguez**, 30.

The remaining convicted co-defendants include **Eric J. Banks**, 34, **Bradley E. Jenkins**, 21, **Ryan Poston**, 26, and **Cleothpus J. Harris**, 40, all of Grandview, **Rebecca L. Martin**, 24, of Raytown, **Christopher R. Mays**, 33, of Warrensburg, and **Gloria Garcia**, 33, of El Paso.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force, the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html